

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

BELMONT PLANTATION
GARNETT, SOUTH CAROLINA

January 18, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Belmont Plantation in Garnett, South Carolina on January 18, 1974, with Chairman J. W. Hudson, presiding. Also in attendance were Vice-Chairman Glenn, Commissioners Dennis, Thompson, and Rhame along with Major E. B. Cantey, Advisor; and Executive Director Webb, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Wash Belangia, Jeff Fuller, John Culler, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan, Ed Latimer, Dr. Laurent, Dr. Burrell, Bill Coty, Ned Pendarvis, Johnny Evans, Billy Durant, Terry Hughey, Al Courie, Bennie Reaves, Oscar Sullivan, Charlie Bearden, Val Nash; and Don Dixon and Don Warneke with Arthur Andersen & Co.; and Patrick Noonan and Farley Smith with the Nature Conservancy; and members of the press.

ITEM I - Reading of Last Meeting Minutes - Minutes were approved as mailed out to all Commissioners.

ITEM II - Old Business -

X (1) RELOCATION OF COLUMBIA OFFICE: Mr. Webb reported on the move to the new office at Dutch Plaza. There is some difficulty with the new telephone system, but this problem should be worked out shortly. He extended an invitation for everyone to come by and see the new office. Dr. Timmerman said that the Commission needs to decide whether or not to purchase new furniture for the meeting room at the new office or for the downtown office. Mr. Hudson suggested that with the Commission's approval, within the next thirty days, he would get together with the proper people and decide how to furnish these two offices. There was no objection by the Commission.

X (2) CORP. OF ENGINEER PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS: Dr. Timmerman asked Dr. Laurent to report on this. A booklet on Guidelines for Evaluating Coastal Wetland Developments was passed out. The purpose of the booklet is to get information to developers. Two hundred of these booklets have been sent out to various developers and are available to anyone who might be interested.

X (3) AQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY FOR DENNIS WILDLIFE CENTER: Senator Dennis and Commissioner Rhame have talked separately to Mr. Miller, owner of the property, and Mr. Miller says that he will sell the additional acreage that the Commission wants to purchase and he thinks his price of \$3,000 per acre is fair and cannot come down. Senator Dennis is of the opinion that the price is very good for the eighteen (18) acres. Senator Dennis



moved that the Executive Director be authorized to purchase the additional property at this price. Commissioner Rhame seconded the move.

ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS -

At this point in the meeting, with the Commission's approval, Chairman Hudson took the next item out of order. He introduced Mr. Dixon and Mr. Warneke of Arthur Andersen and Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, who are working on our Internal Control and Management Project and asked Mr. Dixon to bring the Commission up to date on their activities. Mr. Dixon reported that they have developed new procedures and guidelines for the handling of cash receipts, purchasing and overall management control of the department itself, as per the State Auditors request. He asked Mr. Warneke to report on this. A copy of the Financial Report procedure was passed out to each Commissioner and Mr. Warneke went over this procedure, briefly explaining the process, development of new techniques and recommended policies to be followed. The new process should be implemented before the end of the fiscal year.

(1) DIVISION REPORTS:

x A. Game and Freshwater Fisheries: Mr. Jeff Fuller reported that we had the most successful deer hunting season ever conducted on State Game Management Areas in 1973. Also that the Pee-Dee Game Management Area provided excellent public duck hunting during December with 95 hunters harvesting 334 ducks for an average of 3.5 ducks per hunter. He also reported that the "No Littering" signs, as requested by the Commission, have been constructed and erected at all boat ramps, fish hatcheries and public fishing lakes. This division report was mailed out prior to this Commission meeting.

(a) Progress on Eel Study: Some months back a study was inaugurated and funding solicited for this project. At the same time tentative Rules and Regulations were set up for the taking of eel in the Cooper River and tributaries. A copy of this Rule and Regulation was passed out. It was discussed and Senator Dennis made the motion that we accept and implement this Rule and Regulation immediately. There was discussion on whether or not we should include the lakes also in this project. It was decided that Mr. Fuller's department should work up a new proposed Rule and Regulation to be submitted to the Delegation in those counties surrounding these lakes and this would be ready before or on the date of the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Rhame seconded this motion.

x (b) Fish Kill on Catawba River: After discussing this matter it was the feeling of the Commission that we should pursue this civilly and criminally. Mr. Latimer said that he would begin negotiations to try to settle this matter immediately. Senator Dennis moved that this action be taken and Commissioner Thompson seconded.



At this point in the meeting, Brock Conrad reported on the 1974 Spring Turkey Gobbler Seasons. He passed out copies of the recommendations and went over them with the Commission. Under the Central Piedmont Hunt Unit the limit was changed from 2 to 3 gobblers per season. Under the proposed Rules and Regulations, Number 16 was added. The only other change was that we are requiring the hunters to camp in designated camp sites only this year. The Forest Service has agreed to this regulation. There were no objections and these Rules and Regulations were approved as submitted with the above changes.

B. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph gave a brief report on the activities at the Marine Center; a report on this was mailed out earlier this month. He noted that several meetings of the interagency council on Coastal Zone Planning and Management have been held with active participation by Center staff. Also, meetings have been held with the Architects of Lockwood & Green, Inc. for further planning on the new Cooperative Research Center. On Friday, January 11th, the Marine Resources Advisory Board met at the Center in Charleston. The meeting was useful and informative. Minutes of the meeting will be distributed at a later date. Also, time has been spent in preparing for the World Mariculture Society for which the Department is host. All members of the Commission are invited to participate.

X Chairman Hudson suggested that the Advisory Board Meetings be held on the second Friday of every other month. They should all meet together for one hour and then divide up into their own groups. He also requested that the Advisory Boards get copies of the minutes of our Commission Meetings so that they will be familiar with what is going on.

It was reported that 1973 was a record year for shrimp.

Mr. Latimer reported on Oyster Lease 21 and requested that this appeal be held in abeyance.

C. Law Enforcement & Boating: Mr. Pat Ryan was unable to attend this meeting due to attending a meeting of PRT. A report on this division was mailed out earlier in the month.

X(1) Rule & Regulation - Poplar Creek: Mr. Mishoe reported on this and recommended that this area be zoned to a slow or no wake area. This was approved by the Commission and Commissioners not present will be notified before the policy is enacted.

D. Information and Public Affairs: John Culler reported on the activities of his Division. A total of 2,313 requests for educational and general information were answered during the month of December. Included in this total are 561 requests answered by our staff at the Marine Center in Charleston. A 60 second TV spot was distributed to all television stations. The title was "A Lot to Do in South Carolina". Magazine articles were edited and layouts designed for the January-February issue. A sample of the S. C. Wildlife Coloring Book was mailed to the 868 elementary and middle schools in the state. A poster showing the



factors that affect a deer population and the role of the hunter in controlling deer populations is being prepared for high school biology classes and the general public.

E. Administrative Services: Wash Belangia reported briefly on his Division activities for the month. A report on this was mailed out prior to this meeting. The Personnel Department is in the process of establishing comprehensive folders on each employee of the department. A performance Evaluation Summary Report has been developed which will relate the Performance Evaluation of each employee by month by Division. Also, they have been working with staff of Arthur Andersen & Company in preparing a Purchase Guideline and Manual for the department. It is near completion. Mr. Bill Mikael has been hired to assist in maintaining inventory of equipment and supplies and supervise the disbursement of these items. Wash introduced Mr. Al Courie, new Personnel Manager to the Commission.

X Legal: Bill Coty reported on the activities of the Legal Division of the Department. A copy of this was mailed out previously. Would like to concentrate on Budget Recommendations this year. Have met with Ways and Means Committee in the past week. The proposed recommendations for handling legislative proposals within the Department were distributed. Also a Blue Law Manual was passed on to all Commissioners and this will be kept up to date in the future with all changes. First Legislative Report was distributed. Have asked environmental groups to send a mailing list for their people who would like to receive these reports. Senator Dennis requested Bill Coty to read the resolution commending Mr. Eltzroth. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes. The Executive Director will sign and forward the original of this resolution on to Mr. Eltzroth.

Sign at Dennis Wildlife Center: Have had a problem with getting this sign up. Wash Belangia reported that Supervisor Flood originally was going to build the brick portion of this sign himself and has been sick for the last month and have been unable to do the brick work. Therefore, Mr. Flood suggested that we get a contractor to do the work. This has been done and the inside work will be done within thirty days after the brick base has been constructed. The center portion will have aluminum lettering and will withstand weathering. A dedication ceremony will be held later in the summer.

X (2) Recommendations for a Permit System for Belmont Game Management Area: Recommendations for a permit system for Belmont Game Management Area were submitted to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Rhame made move to accept and Commissioner Glenn seconded.

(3) Appointments: All appointments were approved as mailed out with the exception of Mr. Finnell, which was withdrawn.



Commissioner Rhame reported that the Game & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board and the Law Enforcement Advisory Board met together January 16, 1974 at the Dennis Wildlife Center. Several items were discussed and he found the meeting very informative and meaningful.

X It was the feeling of the Commission that we should give the Sheriff's department in District 1 an additional \$700 making the total reward \$1,000 in the case of Officer Gerald Holcombe being fired upon. This reward is for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party. Commissioner Glenn made a move that we provide this reward and Commissioner Thompson seconded. The proper people will be contacted to carry this out.

NATURE CONSERVANCY - HERITAGE LAND TRUST PROGRAM: Chairman Hudson introduced Mr. Patrick Noonan and Mr. Farley Smith of the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Noonan gave the Commission a description of The Nature Conservancy and the work they are doing and how they could help us. It was decided that at the next meeting more data would be available.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Stapleton

Chris Stapleton, Secretary

cs/attachments

